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FACSIMILE MESSAGE

Date: **June 11, 2004**

To: **Group Art Unit 3627**

Fax No.: **0011 1 703 872 9306**

Subject: **United States Patent Application No. 09/662,617**
Inventors/Assignors: Kia Silverbrook
Assignee: SILVERBROOK RESEARCH PTY LTD

Our Ref: **IR25US**

Total Number of Pages (including this) : 5

Attached is a response to Office Action dated March 11, 2004, of Examiner James A Kramer.

Regards

Kia Silverbrook

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PTO/SB/21 (02-04)

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TRANSMITTAL FORM (to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)	Application Number	09/882,617
	Filing Date	September 15, 2000
	First Named Inventor	Kia Silverbrook
	Art Unit	3827
	Examiner Name	James A Kramer
Total Number of Pages in This Submission	Attorney Docket Number	IR25US

ENCLOSURES (Check all that apply)		
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SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT

Firm or individual name	Kia Silverbrook
Signature	
Date	June 11, 2004

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In the United States Patent and Trademark Office

Serial Number: 09/662,617
Application. Filed: September 15, 2000
Applicant: Kia Silverbrook
Application. Title: Camera Exchange System and Method
Examiner/GAU: James A Kramer/3627

Dated June 11, 2004
At: Balmain, NSW
Docket No. IR25US

REPLY

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, District of Columbia 20231

Dear Sir:

In response to the Official Action mailed 11 March 2004, we request that the following remarks be considered :

Claims 1 and 9-11 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zander (USPN 5,517,265) in view of Cosgrove et al (USPN 6,070,013).

Claims 2-8 and 12-15 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zander in view of Cosgrove and further in view of Official Notice as detailed in the Official Action.

Zander teaches a method and apparatus for preventing unauthorized recycling of single use cameras. The embodiments teach that the camera is provided with an IC that includes a count down counter that stores a number corresponding to the number of photos that the camera is permitted to take. When the count down counter reaches zero, the camera is disabled and will not take more photos irrespective of how many photos may still be available.

When the camera is recycled, by providing the camera with a new stock of film, the IC 51 is re-programmed with a new number corresponding to the number of photos available in the new film stock. That is, the replenishing station re-authenticates the camera. The camera is thus re-enabled to take photos until the counter again reaches zero. However, where the consumables are replenished in an unauthorized way, the counter is not re-programmed and the camera will not be enabled to take the photos that might be available with the replenished film stock.

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A problem with the system taught by Zander is that the replenishing station authenticates the camera. An unauthorized refurbishing station is still able to refurbish and re-sell the camera by re-programming the IC in some way.

In contrast, in the present application, and as claimed in present claim 1, the camera authenticates the refurbishing station rather than vice versa, see for example page 9, lines 2 to 6, page 13 lines 9-10. In this way, an unauthorized refurbishing station is unable to re-enable the camera once the consumables have been replaced, and the authentication chip is unable to be reprogrammed. In preferred embodiments provided in the description, the authentication chip of the camera further authenticates the refurbishing station by authenticating every replacement component provided by the refurbishing station. Once the authentication chip has authorized the refurbishing station, the counters within the camera are reset internally.

The camera authenticating the refurbishing station, rather than the other way around, is an important distinction in the present invention and is neither taught nor suggested by Zander. This feature is also not taught by the secondary reference Cosgrove. In light of this distinction, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1, and its dependent claims 2-8 are novel and inventive over the cited prior art.

Claim 9 is a method claim containing a similar limitation as the system claim of claim 1 in that the camera authenticates the refurbishing station. Accordingly, the comments applied above in respect of claim 1 equally apply in respect of claim 9 and its dependent claims 10-15. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claims 9-15 are novel and inventive over the cited prior art.

Applicant acknowledges the double patenting rejection of the claims and advises that a suitable terminal disclaimer will be filed, if still applicable, upon notification of allowable subject matter.

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Summary

Applicant has provided detailed reasoning as to why Applicant believes that the present claims are novel and inventive over the cited prior art. Applicant submits that the arguments and remarks presented herein are fully responsive to each of the issues raised in the Official Action. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests further consideration of the application.

Very respectfully,

Applicant:



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